COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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SENIOR PILOT ASTRONAUT WINGS—Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell pins Senior Pilot Astronaut Wings to the uniform of Lt. Col. William A. Anders, Apollo 8 Astronaut. Mrs. Anders look on.

Accurate, Distant Airdrops Studied

Silent and accurate airdrop of supplies from as far as 12 miles away and at altitudes of 30,000 feet, regardless of the weather, could be in the Army's future under a study being conducted by the Combat Developments Command at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

The answer may be in the "parawing" now under consideration by CDC for Army-wide adoption.

Air drop of supplies to besieged or otherwise isolated units now requires reasonable weather. With the parawing, fog and darkness may be used to good advantage and the aircraft will be out of range of enemy gunners.

The parawing can be deployed from current military cargo aircraft from altitudes of 500 to 30,000 feet. It is designed to operate when combat conditions require military aircraft to keep well out of enemy sight and hearing. This method also may be used where terrain makes conventional air drop procedures difficult.

In operation the aircraft ejects a 500-pound cargo load, the parawing spreads its 25-foot composition wings and glides silently to earth. The cargo is suspended from a single swivel below a radio control unit.

The control unit guides the parawing and payload to a selected impact point on the ground.

President Addresses Key Men

On his second visit to the Pentagon since taking office Jan. 20, President Richard M. Nixon recalled his service in the Armed Forces (Lt. Cmdr.-Navy) and said, "I always feel just a little bit embarrassed when an admiral comes up to me and says "sir".

He said he thought it should be the other way around, adding, "I am sure the Secretary (Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, another Navy WWII veteran) has the same problem."

The President chose Jan. 31 to address a capacity crowd of high-ranking military officials in the Pentagon auditorium who, he said, were "the key men who are responsible for the defense of the United States and who also play the major role in the defense and peace of freedom in the world."

He said he had been privileged to know the top military commanders of the nation "going back over 20 years," and then added:

"I know that the military man in the United States today is a broad-gauged man. His knowledge is not limited simply, and his interests are not limited simply to the military responsibilities that are his.

"He knows the world in which we live. He can give valuable advice on the great diplomatic and political considerations that have to be considered when these decisions are made. He is a specialist, true, and I can assure one thing: I do not presume to be a specialist in this field and I am going to rely, when it comes to

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Resor Seeks to Improve Guard, Reserve Officers

Based on recommendations of an Army study group, Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor has directed that actions be taken to enhance the qualifications of the Army National Guard and the United States Army Reserve officer corps.

The study group, headed by Brig. Gen. James F. Hollingsworth, recommended actions in three general areas: Career Management and Personnel Management; Records monitoring system to support the improved Personnel Management system; and Vitalization of the officer corps.

Under Career and Personnel Management, Secretary Resor has directed the use of attitudinal surveys to obtain views from Guardsmen and Reservists on specific subjects. An in-depth study concerning the over-all personnel management system will be conducted.

In addition, action will be initiated that only those non-unit officers who meet established training objectives and who are required for mobilization are retained in an active Reserve status. There will be a review of current mandatory assignment criteria for obligated officers to determine to what extent allowable grade and MOS substitution criteria adversely affects unit readiness.

To support the improved Personnel Management system, the control and review of efficiency reports for all USAR officers will be centralized at one location and an annual qualitative and quantitative review of the records for all Guard and Reserve officers in active Reserve status will be made by the Army.

Vitalization of the officer corps will be accomplished in several areas, including developing a comprehensive acquisition and retention program, improving standards for promotion of all officers and Federal recognition for officers of the Army National Guard, and by establishing clear and equitable general officer assignment and promotion criteria.

The ARNG (Army National Guard) is being encouraged to aggressively recruit obligated officers who have served two years on active duty and advise them of the ways they can fulfill their military obligation as well as benefits derived from such service.

The instruction at State Officer Candidate Schools has been improved by increasing the instruction programs by 50 hours and greater use of ARNG State OCS by the USAR is being encouraged.

In the promotion area, ARNG officers going from first lieutenant to captain will have mandatory selection boards centralized at each CONUS Army as is now the policy of the USAR, and new instructions for setting up these boards will be issued.

The three-year period an officer may serve in a unit after declining a promotion is being reduced to one year and declinations will be limited to one per officer's career unless a waiver is granted by the Army. Exceptions to this are technicians, Alaskan Scouts and air defense.

Required military education for promotion will be changed. Officers going to first lieutenant must complete a basic course of instruction and complete 25 percent of a Branch Advanced course before making captain. The Branch Advanced course must be completed before making major.

Prospective lieutenant colonels must complete 50 percent of the Command and General Staff Course and finish the course within three years before becoming eligible for full colonel.

In addition, legislation as required will be requested which will provide for promoting officers to first lieutenant following 18 months of commissioned service and completion of the basic course.

Qualifications for Reserve and Guard generals will be tightened with previous command experience being considered mandatory for officers to be promoted to general grades. General officers will have to have served in an active Reserve status for five years immediately prior to assignment and have sufficient time remaining to serve five years in the higher grade before mandatory removal from an active Reserve status.

General officers will be retired at age 60 or when the individual reaches maximum years of service and time in grade, whichever occurs first. When valid requirements exist and there is no qualified replacement, the Secretary of the Army may approve retention, but in no case past age 62.

The entire advisory system for the ARNG and USAR will be reviewed with a view toward identifying the most effective means of fulfilling responsibility for providing the Reserve components with well qualified advisors.

	UNITED STATES LOCATIONS	OVERSEAS LOCATIONS	LOCATIONS NOT SPECIFIED	TOTAL
Army	$ 831,637,000	$127,706,000	$ -	$ 959,343,000
Navy	303,803,000	49,971,000	-	353,774,000
Air Force	297,916,000	54,213,000	-	352,129,000
Reserve Components	40,000,000	-	-	40,000,000
Defense Agencies	45,597,000	1,903,000	25,000,000	72,500,000
Subtotal	$1,518,953,000	$233,793,000	$ 25,000,000	$1,777,746,000
Military Family Housing	-	-	-	694,418,000
Homeowners Assistance	-	-	-	1,850,000
Total	$1,518,953,000	$233,793,000	$ 25,000,000	$2,474,014,000

The above table gives a breakdown on the Military Construction Authorization Bill (See CD, 2/8/69, P-7) sent to Congress in mid-January. The $2.4 billion request is for new authorization in support of the military services, the Defense agencies and Reserve components.

More Evidence Sought in Scorpion Investigation

The Court of Inquiry charged with investigating the loss of the nuclear powered submarine Scorpion has recommended that further examination of the submarine's wreckage be made since the certain cause of the loss of the submarine cannot be ascertained from any evidence now available.

In commenting on the thousands of underwater photographs taken by the research vessel Mizar, the court said, "Identifiable debris does not lead to a determination of the cause for the loss of the Scorpion."

As a result, the Navy's deep diving submersible Trieste II will proceed to the location of Scorpion early this year where on-the-spot observation and additional photographs can be made of portions of the submarine's hull which rest in more than 10,000 feet of water about 400 miles southwest of the Azores.

The Navy said the unique capabilities of Trieste are being brought into play because the thousands of photographs taken of Scorpion's wreckage last fall by the Mizar do not reveal data which can pinpoint the cause of the sinking.

Trieste can carry one observer in addition to its two-man crew. Various technical experts thus will be able to conduct on-the-spot visual inspection of Scorpion's hull through the use of powerful spotlights.

The bathyscape has been modified to improve its capabilities for controlled mobility. Trieste crewmen will be able to photograph the submarine's wreckage from different angles than were possible with the Mizar's towed underwater cameras.

Additionally, Trieste has a limited capability to retrieve small objects from the ocean floor.

The seven-man Scorpion Court of Inquiry, headed by retired VAdm. Bernard L. Austin, eliminated two possible causes based on the available information. It concluded that the Scorpion did not hit a seamount, since there is none in the area where the submarine went to the bottom. After hearing the expert testimony of qualified witnesses, the court also dismissed the nuclear reactor plant as a possible cause of the loss.

The court found through testimony that the crew was well-trained and could be expected to take proper action in the event of a ship control casualty in order to prevent the submarine from descending to crush depth.

The court also eliminated the theory that the accident was due to an explosion of one of her own torpedoes or that it was caused by collision with another ship. In addition, no evidence of any kind to suggest foul play or sabotage was found by the court.

Testimony established the Scorpion's crew was stable and mature and, "the evidence does not establish that the loss of Scorpion and deaths of those embarked were caused by the intent, fault, negligence or inefficiency of any person or persons in the naval service or connected therewith."

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations, commenting on the loss of Scorpion, said, "I have no doubt that the concepts, procedures, and operating practices employed by the U.S. Navy in submarine operations are sound and effective. Nevertheless, such practices will continue to be reviewed in the future as they have been in the past. The long history of outstandingly successful submarine operations; the current state of our advanced submarine technology; and the knowledge, experience, and training of our submarine personnel warrant the continued confidence of the public in this naval capability which is of such paramount importance to our nation's future security.

RETIREMENT—The Department of the Army has announced the retirement of Maj. Gen. John J. Lane, USA, Commander of the Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service (MTMTS) effective March 31, after more than 35 years of military service.

NEW COMMANDER — Maj. Gen. Clarence J. Lang, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army Materiel Command, has been selected to command the Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service. He will replace Maj. Gen. John J. Lane, USA, who will retire April 1, 1969.

Background for the Warsaw Talks

COMMUNIST CHINA TODAY

On February 20, the 135th ambassadorial-level meeting between the U.S. and Communist China is scheduled to take place in Warsaw. This is the first meeting to be held since January 1968—the longest hiatus since the talks began in 1955.

Commenting on U.S. policy toward China during his press conference of January 27, President Richard M. Nixon said: "We look forward to that meeting. We will be interested to see what the Chinese Communist representatives have to say . . . whether new changes of attitude on their part on major substantive issues may have occurred."

Below is an assessment of the current situation in Communist China given by outgoing Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford in his Annual Posture Statement ("The 1970 Defense Budget and Defense Program for Fiscal Years 1970-74") of January 15.

While [Communist] China continues to provide aid to North Vietnam, internal turmoil for more than two years has prevented it from taking as active a role in either world or Communist affairs as it had before the Cultural Revolution. It has reacted coolly and at times with outright hostility to the Vietnam peace negotiations. Even with a return to something resembling normality in China, it appears doubtful that relations with its immediate Communist neighbors, let alone the U.S.S.R., will be sufficiently adjusted to pose the threat of united Asian Communism for years to come.

New Stage in the "Cultural Revolution"

By the end of 1968 it seemed clear that a major phase of the "Great Cultural Revolution" was drawing to an end, in fact if not in name. In contrast to the encouragement of turmoil by Mao Tse-tung during the height of the Cultural Revolution, when the Red Guards ran rampant, there were signs of a concerted effort to restore order. An editorial carried jointly by the major official papers on the anniversary of the October Revolution emphasized the need to consolidate past gains.

It was clear, however, from the exhortations to follow instructions that his personalized direction of state affairs continues. At a meeting of the enlarged Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in mid-October this pattern prevailed. The fall from grace of the Cultural Revolution scapegoat, Chief of State Liu Shao-Chi, was confirmed and Liu was deprived of his titles.

Rebuilding the Party Structure

With the emphasis shifting to a restoration of unity, there was increased talk of the need to rebuild the Communist Party structure, badly torn asunder by the purges, explicit and implicit, of the Cultural Revolution. The major instrument for effecting the transition from the chaotic phase of the Cultural Revolution has been the Chinese Army. Its leaders have dominated the committees established to restore order in most of the provinces; it is a principal participant in the "three-way alliances" (mass organizations, Communist Party and government, and Army), now the chosen instrument for conducting the Cultural Revolution; and army personnel have been frequently called upon to impose order upon warring factions. Defense Minister Lin Piao remains Mao's heir apparent.

There were numerous indicators that the Chinese economy had suffered severely during the past two years, as both industrial and agricultural production fell off. With emphasis on the activity of students being replaced by an expanded role . . . for workers, including peasants, Peking may now be on the verge of a campaign to restore levels of productivity.

Students, in turn, are being encouraged either to return to school or to work in the countryside, and they appear shorn of their role as vanguards of the revolutionary forces.

Conduct of Foreign Affairs

A return to something approaching normality was reflected also in the conduct of foreign affairs, where Peking's diplomatic behavior avoided the aberrant extremism of the previous two years. However, apart from trade, 75 percent of which is now with non-Communist countries, Peking's contacts outside the Communist world remain limited largely to selected underdeveloped countries where it seeks to exert influence.

Within the Communist world Peking still finds itself

An Assessment of the Situation

as much at odds as ever with its major rival, the U.S.S.R. For example, China joined with the most caustic critics of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. At the same time, China clearly disapproved some actions by its close neighbor, North Vietnam, even while supplying it with substantial assistance to carry on the war. Peking took a critical view of a peaceful settlement and chose initially to ignore the Paris Talks in public media.

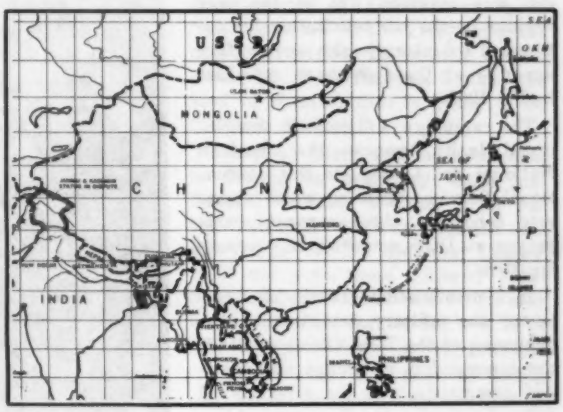
Warsaw Meetings With the U.S.

Only one Warsaw meeting, in January 1968, was held between U.S. and Chinese diplomatic representatives, and Peking failed to respond to such initiatives as the U.S. has from time to time put forth for the exchange of reporters and personnel in humanitarian fields. Nevertheless, in November 1968, when the Chinese failed to agree in time to attend the meeting the U.S. hoped would take place in Warsaw, Peking's commentary indicated an intention to continue the series of diplomatic meetings in 1969.

The Chinese nuclear test program has proceeded more slowly than anticipated; in December 1968, however, a three megaton thermonuclear test was conducted in the atmosphere. It was unclear whether delays in the program were the result of the testing program falling behind for technical reasons or whether progress had been disrupted by the course of the Cultural Revolution. China continued to improve its conventional capabilities, particularly naval and air, despite domestic disorder.

Militant Leadership

If there are signs of moderation in current Chinese pronouncements, it is only by contrast with the recent past. There is no indication as yet of any major shift from radical leadership, and the 1949 declaratory goals of advancing revolution at home and supporting revolution abroad remain unchanged. Despite the losses to its economy and industrial capability that have resulted from the Cultural Revolution, a continuation of the present militance of China's leadership poses an undiminished long-term threat to the stability of international relations in Asia.



Most countries in East Asia are likely to see their futures in terms of a relationship in East Asia between U.S. and Chinese power. In the post-[Vietnam]-hostilities period, Communist China will remain the primary security threat. This threat is likely for the next few years to be manifested mainly in a capability to foment and support insurgencies, although the Chinese nuclear potential has already emerged as a consideration for the future in the minds of East Asian policy makers.

Communist China's capability to "export revolution" can easily be exaggerated, but it is evident that conflicts in the region can be exploited by Peking. Examples are the tensions between North and South Korea; existing discontent and insurgency in Burma and Thailand; racial tensions in and between Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia; the Philippine-Malaysia dispute over Sabah; and North Vietnamese aggression in Laos. Even without Peking's intervention, such issues will constitute sources of weakness for the region as a whole in its confrontation with Communist China.

Overseas Combined Campaign Gets Underway

The 1969 Overseas Combined Federal Campaign will be conducted during the six-week period beginning Feb. 15 and ending Mar. 31, the Defense Department said.

The DOD provides for the conduct of a single annual campaign among U.S. DOD personnel located in all DOD overseas commands, installations and activities, excluding those located in Panama, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The single combined campaign under this program will be the only regular on-the-job solicitation by authorized voluntary health and welfare agencies at these overseas activities in FY 1969.

The campaign will include the National Health Agencies, the American National Red Cross, and the International Service Agencies which formerly conducted three separate campaigns at DOD activities in overseas locations.

In a memorandum to the secretaries of the military departments, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commanders of unified and specified commands, and the directors of defense agencies, the Secretary of Defense stated the following:

"This single appeal gives all Department of Defense personnel, both military and civilian, located at DOD overseas activities, a unique opportunity to pledge through the payroll allotment system their individual citizen's share of contributions needed to support national and international health, welfare and social service agencies.

"These agencies, among the many programs they conduct, contribute materially to military morale and welfare at home and overseas, better national health conditions through research and individual assistance and stronger bonds of international friendship through voluntary aid to many people in other countries who are hungry and destitute. They merit personal support from us, both as citizens and as Department of Defense personnel.

"It is requested that each addressee join with me to make this appeal a complete success by urging all military and civilian personnel in your Department, agency or command who are located overseas to demonstrate that the basic needs of these voluntary agencies can be adequately fulfilled through a single solicitation by making a generous gift or pledge during the forthcoming campaign.

"An organized on-the-job solicitation will not be conducted during this campaign among U.S. DOD military and civilian personnel located in South Vietnam. However, any unsolicited contributions these personnal may make voluntarily will be gratefully appreciated by the recipient voluntary agencies."

NEW DIRECTOR OF WOMEN MARINES—General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., commandant of the Marine Corps, presents the Certificate of Appointment as Sixth Director of Women Marines to Col. Jeanette I. Sustad. (Left to right) Capt. Rita A. Lenihan, director of the WAVES; Gen. Chapman; Col. Elizabeth Hoisington, director of the WAC; Col. Jeanne A. Holm, director of the WAF; Col. Sustad and Cdr. Lora F. Lawrence, senior officer of the SPARS.

$40 MILLION NAVY FIGHTER CONTRACT AWARDED

A $40-million contract for the engineering development phase of the F-14A jet fighter was awarded by the Navy Feb. 4 to the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp., Bethpage, L. I., N.Y.,

The contract provides an initial funding of $40 million for the research and development of pre-production of the supersonic carrier-based F-14A aircraft. Funding under the development contract will total $388 million over a period of about four years.

The contract also gives the Navy the option to procure up to 463 production models of the F-14 following the development phase of the program.

The Navy said the F-14 will be a variable-sweep wing aircraft with a tandem seating arrangement, and will offer an appreciable increase in performance over the Navy's first line fighter, the F-4 Phantom II.

The new aircraft will have an all-weather capability for delivery of the Phoenix, Sparrow, and Sidewinder missiles using the AN/AWG-9 weapons control system. The aircraft also will have an air-to-ground attack capability and an air-to-air high performance gun.

President Addresses Key Men

(Continued from Page 1)

purely matters, on what my military advisers tell me should be done.

"But," President Nixon continued, "I do know this: I do know that due to the magnificent education that is provided for those who finally achieve the top ranks in our military services, they are men who are not just specialists; they are generalists in the best sense of the word. They can make a contribution, a contribution to the over-all policy of this nation.

"I want you to know that I want to hear what they have to say. I will take that into consideration in developing our policies, because I know that your interests are the same as ours."

The President said, "I know often the tendency is to take the Department of Defense and the Department of State and constantly to assume that they will be at odds; they will be working against each other; and that it is the job of the President of the United States, or his National Security Advisers, to try to negotiate the differences and then present some kind of, shall we say, negotiated peace treaty between the two before we can get a policy."

President Nixon said he didn't consider it that way at all. "We will have our differences," he said, adding,

President Nixon

"There are differences within the State Department as to what our policy should be. There are differences within the Defense Department, although it is very hard to get General Wheeler (Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) to tell me what they are.

"But on the other hand," he continued, "while those differences do exist, I believe that we are all working together toward the same end. I want to hear those differences expressed. I will then have to make the decision, a decision that only the President of the United States can make in determining what our policy will be.

"But only if I hear from the Defense Department and from within the Department the differences that may be there, and from the State Department and from other interested departments of Government what their views are on the great problems that confront this Nation and abroad —only if I hear that can I make the kind of decision that is going to be the best decision."

President Nixon said he was going to depend on Secretary Laird and General Wheeler "to bring to me and the National Security Council the viewpoints of the Defense Department and even those minority viewpoints that may exist here which may not agree with that which you have eventually considered should prevail."

The President said that, by seeing that those viewpoints are brought to the attention of the National Security Council, and through that Council to the President of the United States, "you will assure that our policy will be better policy than it would otherwise be."

Strike Command Begins Unique Training

The United States Strike Command began a unique Joint Forces training exercise at Eglin AFB, Fla., Feb. 10 and will continue until Mar. 3.

The exercise, named Bold Shot/Brim Fire 3-69 and 4-69, will include an Army Training Test of an airborne engineering battalion whose mission will be to carve out a pair of assault landing strips under simulated combat field conditions.

The Strike Command said the entire training project is unique in that it features an Army Training Test between two USSTRICOM rapid reaction joint training exercises.

Another result of the "doubleheader" is the residual benefit to Eglin AFB. According to officials there, two assault landing strips have been needed for some time. Therefore, what the airborne engineers build during the Army Training Test will complement other priority construction requirements.

The exercise will involve approximately 1,500 Army and Air Force personnel and about 40 aircraft.

During Bold Shot/Brim Fire 3-69, members of a combat control team and airborne engineer personnel will parachute into the selected drop zone at Eglin. They will be followed by a heavy drop of a cross-sectional representation of airborne engineering equipment.

Fifteen days later, Feb. 28, Bold Shot/Brim Fire 4-69 will get underway with an airborne infantry company making a parachute assault into the area to reinforce troops already there and take part in the tactical withdrawal of all combat and engineer forces involved in both exercises.

Lessons Learned From Forrestal Fire Aided Enterprise

Lessons learned from the U.S.S. Forrestal accident in the summer of 1967 were applied in full measure during the recent explosion and fire aboard the carrier Enterprise and according to the Navy helped keep the damage to a minimum.

Preliminary findings by a Navy Board of Investigation indicates the explosion and fire aboard the Enterprise were the result of a jet starter cart.

The board, convened by the Pacific Fleet commander, is still in session and the Navy says the findings are subject to modification depending on further information.

The Navy said these jet starter carts have a small jet turbine which vents a hot exhaust. Indications are that the exhaust from the cart may have caused the overheating and explosion of a Zuni rocket attached to the wing of an airplane. The initial explosion apparently caused a fire and subsequent bomb and rocket explosions on airplanes parked nearby.

The Navy said new equipment, techniques, and procedures were introduced after the Forrestal accident and directly contributed to lesser damage and fewer casualties than might otherwise have been incurred. Using the new firefighting techniques and equipment, the fires aboard the Enterprise were brought under control within minutes after the last explosion.

In addition, the rocket in question is currently under test as part of an extensive investigation into the effect of heat on air carried ordnance. Tests to date have resulted in some positive steps in weapons production which will increase the time between application of heat from jet fuel fed fires and detonation. This is a continuous program which was undertaken at the time of the Forrestal accident.

The Navy has estimated the cost of repairing the Enterprise will be $6.4 million. She is expected to return to duty in less than three months.

'MOLLY PITCHER' AWARD—Lt. Gen. Lewis Walt, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, receives the "Molly Pitcher" award from Mrs. Arthur B. Hanell, Chairman, Women's Forum on National Security. The award is presented annually to an individual for "Distinguished Service in the Cause of National Security."

U.S. Armed Forces Strength Drops 25,000

Total numerical strength of the Armed Forces showed a drop of just over 25,000 in the month December the Department of Defense has said.

On December 31, based on preliminary reports, there were 3,407,557 in the Armed Forces, compared to a 3,432,737 figure on November 30.

December strength figures for each service, with month-ago and year-ago figures for comparison are:

	Dec. 31, 1968	Nov. 30, 1968	Dec. 31, 1967
Total DOD	3,407,557	3,432,737	3,397,701
Army	1,462,960	1,473,622	1,462,999
Navy	744,646	754,191	745,598
Marine Corps	313,031	311,125	298,498
Air Force	886,920	893,799	890,606
Coast Guard	36,688		36,061

The figures, except Coast Guard, represent full-time military personnel comprising both regulars and reserves on continuous active duty and officer candidates including cadets at the Military and Air Academies and midshipmen at the Naval Academy.

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